



Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge

Suffolk, Virginia

"The Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge is located in southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. The refuge consists of over 112,000 acres of forested wetlands. Lake Drummond, at 3,100 acres and the largest natural lake in Virginia, is located in the heart of the swamp."

Green Statement: "Protecting and preserving a unique and outstanding ecosystem, and perpetuating the diversity of animal and plant life therein."

CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Attractions

☒ **Recycling.** Virginia Green facilities must have highly-visible locations/containers that provide the opportunity for guests to recycle aluminum cans, plastic and glass bottles, or other disposable products purchased at the facility. Recycling of cardboard, plastic, paper, and composting of waste foods is highly encouraged as well. This facility pledges that they:

- Offer the opportunity for guests to recycle: glass bottles, aluminum cans
- Also recycle: steel cans, newspaper, office paper, cardboard, fluorescent lamps, batteries, electronic equipment

☒ **Minimize the use of disposable food service products.** The facility is required to minimize the use of disposable food service products and maximize the use of food service products that are recyclable or compostable in the food service area. When disposable food service items are used, the facility is encouraged to use products that are made from bio-based or renewable resources, and to provide for the collection / recycling/ composting of food service items disposed of on the premises. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable foodservice items that are made from bio-based, renewable materials (corn, bamboo, potato starch, sugarcane, etc.)
- Use disposable foodservice items that are made with recycled content

☒ **Reduce solid waste.** The facility must be actively working to reduce its solid waste generation. This facility pledges that they:

Kitchen (or during meetings/events)

- Donate excess food from events

Dining room (or during meetings/events)

- Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters

Restrooms

- Purchase recycled-content paper-towels and toilet paper

Office

- Make double-sided photocopies and avoid making extra photocopies
- Use electronic correspondence and forms when possible

Buildings and grounds

- Use green cleaning products that are dispensed in bulk
- Use latex low or no-VOC paints
- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles

☒ **Use water efficiently.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its water use. This facility pledges that they:

Activities indoors

- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks

Activities outdoors

- Have minimized impervious areas (paving, concrete, etc.)
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds

☒ **Conserve energy.** The facility must have a plan in place and have taken steps toward reducing its energy use. This facility pledges that they:

Lighting

- Use natural lighting
- Have installed compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and canned lighting
- Have installed directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

Appliances and electronic devices

- Use ENERGY STAR qualified appliances (commercial kitchens, heating and cooling, consumer electronics)

Transportation-related energy use

- Use alternative fuel, hybrid-electric, or electric vehicles
- Purchase Green Tags or Renewable Energy Certificates to support new renewable energy resources
- Purchase Green Power from utility
- Are an EPA Green Power Partner

Building construction and renovation

- Achieved LEED certification at the ____ level during the facility's construction
- Are working to or have achieved LEED-EB (existing building) certification through operational changes and renovations
- Earned the ENERGY STAR label for our building

☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a "green" or "environmentally-friendly" package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of "green meetings/conferences" in marketing packages

For more information on **Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge**, see www.fws.gov/northeast/greatdismalswamp or contact Chris Lowie at Chris_Lowie@fws.gov or (757) 986-3705.

Virginia Green is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green Attractions** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established "core activities" for **Green Attractions** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/viriniagreen or www.viriniagreentravel.org.



Virginia Green is supported through a partnership between the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Virginia Hospitality & Travel Association, and the Virginia Tourism Corporation.

